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1 1. (amended) An inkjet device comprising:  
2 at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops  
3 in a spitting operation;  
4 a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and  
5 a generally planar shelf mounted for rocking motion  
6 between:

7  
8 a first position for directly receiving  
9 and retaining the ejected ink from  
10 the printhead, and

11  
12 a second position for transferring the  
13 received ink to the spittoon by  
14 spilling the received ink from the  
15 shelf into the spittoon.

1 2. (amended) An inkjet device comprising:  
2 at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops  
3 in a spitting operation;  
4 a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and  
5 a temporary spittoon arranged to move between first  
6 and second positions, said temporary spittoon being ar-  
7 ranged in the first position so that the ink drops are  
8 ejected onto a surface of said temporary spittoon, and  
9 said temporary spittoon being further arranged to trans-  
10 fer the ink to the spittoon when in the second position;  
11 wherein the surface of the temporary spittoon is  
12 approximately 1 mm to 10 mm from the printhead when the  
13 temporary spittoon is in the first position.

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1 4. (amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein:  
2 the shelf is substantially horizontal when in the  
3 first position.

1 5. (amended) An inkjet device comprising:  
2 at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops  
3 in a spitting operation;  
4 a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and  
5 a temporary spittoon arranged to move between first  
6 and second positions, said temporary spittoon being ar-  
7 ranged in the first position so that the ink drops are  
8 ejected onto a surface of said temporary spittoon, and  
9 said temporary spittoon being further arranged to trans-  
10 fer the ink to the spittoon when in the second position;  
11 wherein the temporary spittoon is mounted on a shut-  
12 tle, said shuttle being arranged to move the temporary  
13 spittoon between the first and second positions.

1 6. (amended) A device according to claim 5, wherein:  
2 the temporary spittoon is arranged to be oriented in  
3 a first orientation when in the first position and in a  
4 second orientation different from the first orientation  
5 when positioned in the second position, such that when  
6 positioned in the second position the temporary spittoon  
7 is arranged to transfer the ink from the spittoon surface  
8 by gravity.

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1 7. (amended) A device according to claim 6, wherein:  
2 the temporary spittoon is rotatably mounted to the  
3 shuttle and arranged to pivot relative to the shuttle  
4 between the first and second orientations.

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1 8. (amended) A device according to claim 7, wherein:  
2 the temporary spittoon is arranged to rotate rela-  
3 tive to the shuttle under the action of one or more cam  
4 surfaces.

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1 9. (amended) An inkjet device comprising:  
2 at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops  
3 in a spitting operation;  
4 a spittoon arranged to store said ejected ink;  
5 a temporary spittoon arranged to move between first  
6 and second positions, said temporary spittoon being ar-  
7 ranged in the first position so that the ink drops are  
8 ejected onto a surface of the temporary spittoon, and  
9 said temporary spittoon being further arranged to trans-  
10 fer the ink to the spittoon when in the second position;  
11 and wherein:  
12 the surface of the temporary spittoon is substan-  
13 tially horizontal when the temporary spittoon is in the  
14 first position;  
15 the temporary spittoon is mounted on a shuttle, the  
16 shuttle being arranged to move the temporary spittoon  
17 between the first and second positions; and  
18 the temporary spittoon is arranged to be oriented in  
19 a first orientation when in the first position and in a  
20 second orientation different from the first orientation  
21 when positioned in the second position, such that when  
22 positioned in the second position the temporary spittoon  
23 is arranged to transfer the ink on the spittoon surface  
24 under gravity; and  
25 the temporary spittoon comprises a flexible material  
26 fixedly mounted to the shuttle, the temporary spittoon  
27 being arranged to bend or deform between the first and  
28 second orientations.

14. (amended) An inkjet device comprising:

at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops in a spitting operation;

a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink;

a temporary spittoon arranged to move between first and second positions, said temporary spittoon being arranged in the first position so that the ink drops are ejected onto a surface of the temporary spittoon, and said temporary spittoon being further arranged to transfer the ink to the spittoon when in the second position;

wherein the surface of the temporary spittoon is substantially horizontal when the temporary spittoon is in the first position; and

wherein the temporary spittoon is mounted on a shuttle, said shuttle being arranged to move the temporary spittoon between the first and second positions; and

a printhead servicing element comprising a cap or a wiper arranged to be movable between a non-active position distant from the printhead and an active position adjacent to the printhead;

wherein the movement of the temporary spittoon is linked to that of the servicing element so that the temporary spittoon is arranged to be in the first position when the servicing element is in the non-active position and to be in the second position when the servicing element is in active position.

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1 16. (amended) A device according to claim 5:  
2 further comprising a plurality of pens;  
3 wherein in the first position the temporary spittoon  
4 is arranged so that ink drops ejected in spitting opera-  
5 tions by one or more of the plurality of pens are ejected  
6 onto a surface of the temporary spittoon.

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1 18. (amended) A device according to claim 16, further  
2 comprising:  
3 one or more scrapers arranged to remove ink from the  
4 temporary spittoon surface as the temporary spittoon  
5 moves between the first and second positions.

1 19. (amended) A device according to claim 5, wherein:  
2 the device is arranged so that in the second posi-  
3 tion the temporary spittoon is located substantially in  
4 contact with the spittoon or ink stored therein, the  
5 temporary spittoon being adapted so that the ink on the  
6 temporary spittoon surface is able to flow from the tem-  
7 porary spittoon to the spittoon.

1 20. (amended) A device according to claim 5, wherein:  
2 the temporary spittoon comprises a porous body adap-  
3 ted to allow the ink on the temporary spittoon surface to  
4 flow through the temporary spittoon to the spittoon.

1 21. (amended) A device according to claim 5, wherein:  
2 the inkjet device is a printer.

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1 22. (amended) An inkjet printhead servicing assembly  
2 comprising:  
3 a spittoon arranged to store ink ejected by an ink-  
4 jet printhead in a spitting operation; and  
5 a spitting shelf rockable between:  
6  
7 a first position for directly receiving  
8 ink drops ejected by the printhead in  
9 a spitting operation, and  
10  
11 a second position for pouring the received  
12 ink off the shelf into the spittoon.

1 23. (amended) An inkjet device comprising:  
2 at least one print head arranged to eject ink drops  
3 in a spitting operation;  
4 a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and  
5 a temporary ink receiver arranged and powered to  
6 move between:  
7  
8 a first position in relatively closer  
9 proximity to a nozzle plate of the  
10 printhead, to intercept ink with min-  
11 imal formation of aerosol; and  
12  
13 a second position relatively more distant  
14 from the nozzle plate to allow cap-  
15 ping or wiping of the nozzle plate.



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1 24. (amended) An inkjet printhead servicing assembly  
2 comprising:

3 a spitting surface;

4 a cap assembly;

5 a reciprocating shuttle arranged to move between  
6 first and second positions and to actuate the spitting  
7 surface and the cap assembly;

8 the servicing assembly being arranged so that:

9

10 when the shuttle is in the first position  
11 the cap assembly is located distant  
12 to a nozzle plate of the printhead  
13 and the spitting surface is located  
14 in close proximity to the nozzle  
15 plate so that ink ejected from the  
16 nozzle plate during a spitting rou-  
17 tine is ejected onto the spitting  
18 surface; and

19

20 when the shuttle is in the second position  
21 the cap assembly substantially caps  
22 the nozzle plate and the spitting  
23 surface is located in a position such  
24 that the ink ejected onto the spit-  
25 ting surface is transferable under  
26 gravity to a permanent ink storage  
27 container.

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1 25. (amended) A method of servicing an inkjet printhead  
2 with a servicing assembly; said servicing assembly com-  
3 prising a spittoon arranged to store ink ejected by said  
4 inkjet printhead in a spitting operation, and a generally  
5 planar spitting surface; said method comprising the steps  
6 of:

7 locating the spitting surface in a first position  
8 relatively closer to the printhead and generally horizon-  
9 tal so that drops ejected by the inkjet printhead in a  
10 spitting operation are ejected onto the spitting surface  
11 and generally are retained thereon;

12 translating the spitting surface to a second posi-  
13 tion relatively more remote from the printhead, allowing  
14 clearance for printhead wiping or capping, and at the  
15 second position inclining the generally planar spitting  
16 surface to discharge the retained into the spittoon.

1 26. (amended) A method of servicing an inkjet printhead  
2 with a servicing assembly; said servicing assembly com-  
3 prising a spittoon arranged to store ink ejected by said  
4 inkjet printhead in a spitting operation, and a spitting  
5 surface; said method comprising the steps of:

6 locating the spitting surface in a first position  
7 such that drops ejected by the inkjet printhead in a  
8 spitting operation are ejected onto the spitting surface;

9 moving the spitting surface to a second position  
10 such that the ejected drops may be transferred to the  
11 spittoon; and

12 capping or wiping the printhead when the spitting  
13 surface is in the second position.